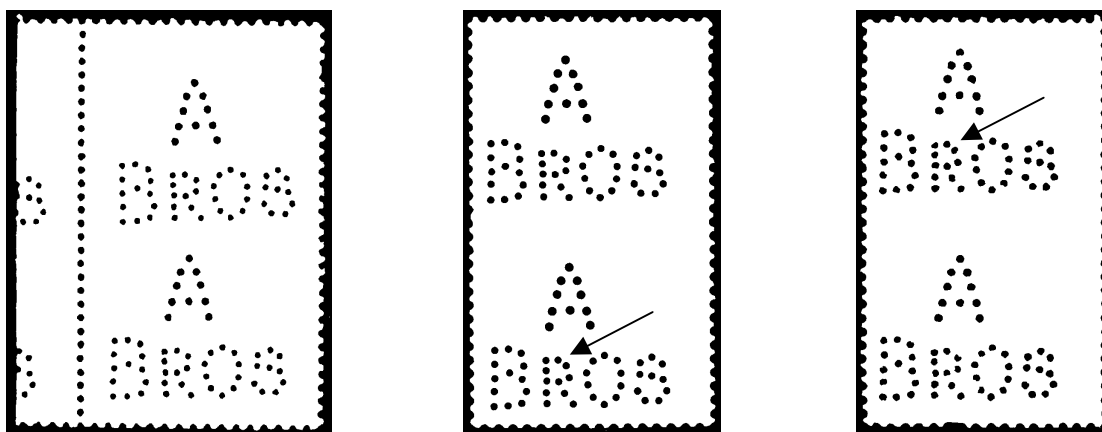


MULTI-HEADED DIE CONFIGURATIONS

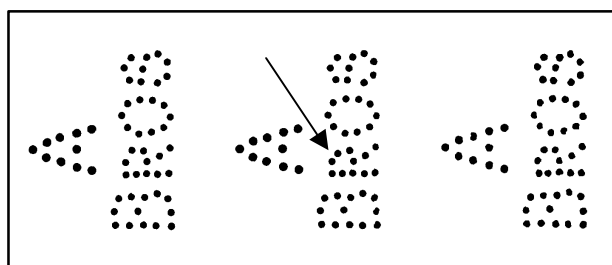
Roy Gault

A query from **Michael Millar** has resulted in the partial reconstruction of another multiheaded die - “A/Bros” (A0830.01), known used by Ackroyd Bros Ltd, Bradford, 1930-1965. Michael reports it on a selvedge copy of a 1/3d QEII Coronation issue, and suggests that as the stamp shows two complete sideways patterns and parts of two more in the selvedge, this probably points to a ‘mhd’.



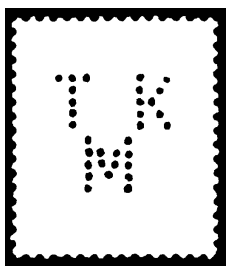
This prompted me to inspect my holdings of the die on large format stamps. Five were found, two of which showed 20.5mm spacing between impressions. This is the horizontal spacing between definitive sized stamps. Luckily, each of the two stamps shows an “R” with a characteristic top but in different positions on the stamps. Moreover, this characteristic “R” did not appear in the other three examples.

The suggestion is that the die was multiheaded at least 3x2 with each pattern placed sideways in the die. This also fits with the fact that definitive sized stamps invariably show the pattern sideways. A reconstruction of the row with the characteristic “R” is shown below.



If anyone has any information that either confirms, enhances or demolishes this scenario, I would be pleased to hear from you!

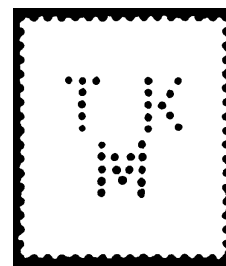
On a similar tack, **Colin Fountain** reports a 2/6d GV ‘Seahorse’ with “TK/M” (T2870.01M) appearing on the right-hand side of the stamp.



The suggestion here is that the die is 2x1, and the pattern on Colin’s stamp is the first in the ‘mhd’.

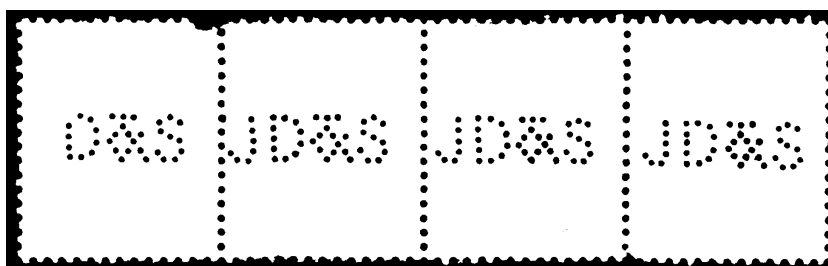
< right-hand side

left-hand side >

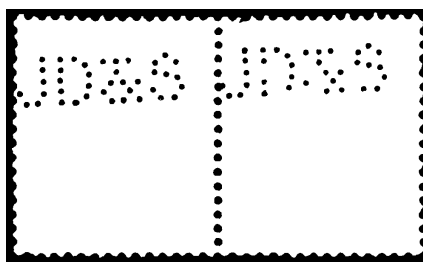


Can anyone report a large format stamp with this die with a strike to the left of the stamp or perhaps with two strikes?

And finally, **Stephen Steere** reports multiples of J2150.01/02, clearly showing them to have been multiheaded dies. We can now add the suffix ‘M’ to each catalogue number. The surprise with the first one, J2150.01M, is that it shows one impression with the “J” completely missing and a pin missing from the “D”. This particular “D&S” has previously been catalogued from a single stamp as D4390.12, which can now be deleted! The strip of four with J2150.01M is postmarked Sheffield, 6th Nov 1895.



The horizontal pair with J2150.02M on 3d issue I(RC) shows five missing pins in the right-hand stamp, whereas the left-hand stamp is complete. This again points to the die being multiheaded.



If not already known to be multiheaded dies, please report any similar multiples (or large format stamps) showing differences like these.